



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.5932 | FAX (517) 373.5944
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/brown/

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Contact: Matt Sweeney
(517) 373-5932

Sen. Brown responds to governor's decision to withhold agriculture funds

LANSING – In response to the governor's funding delay for value added agriculture in Senate Bill 242, state Sen. Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Township, made the following statement:

"Governor Granholm's decision to withhold \$5 million from the Agricultural Development Fund, on top of her veto of these same funds last November, sends the wrong message to our state's second largest industry.

"The governor indicated in her message today that she has concerns about the legality of this appropriation. Does this not draw into question the legality of the initial \$5 million appropriation for agriculture that the administration is currently spending? The fact is that this relatively modest appropriation could have helped increase economic activity at a time when our economy needs it the most. Agriculture produces more than \$60 billion for our state's economy and is responsible for more than one million jobs.

"I plan to discuss my concerns with the governor directly and express to her the importance of assisting this vital industry."

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